



City of Aberdeen • 60 N. Parke Street, Aberdeen, MD 21001 • www.aberdeen-md.org November/December 2013

MAYOR'S C O R N E R

Everyone lives in a place, but everyone does not live in a community. In our case our place is the City of Aberdeen, a small municipality of 15,000 people encompassing just under six and one half square miles and located near the shores of the Chesapeake Bay in Harford County, Maryland. But, in our case, Aberdeen is also very much a community! We are blessed with great people, terrific volunteers and wonderful home grown events all of which makes Aberdeen the community it is.

Two of my favorite events are coming up. On Monday, November 11th, at 11:00 AM, the various Aberdeen veterans' organizations will host a Veteran's Day Ceremony at Veterans Memorial Park located at Parke and Rogers streets. This is always a very special event for me as I did serve in Vietnam in the United States Army after I graduated from Aberdeen High School. I know firsthand the sacrifice that our Veterans have made for our country and it is very heartwarming that we honor that sacrifice at this annual ceremony. I urge all of our citizens to come out for this remembrance.

If any community has a better holiday event than our Aberdeen's Christmas Street, I don't know of it. For my family, Aberdeen's Christmas parade and all that leads up to it, is very special and something that we very much look forward to. Caroline Curry and her team do a dynamite job in organizing this very special day and it gets better every year. Please put Saturday, December 7th on your calendar and come downtown and enjoy this great kick-off to Christmas!

When you come downtown please notice the changes that we are doing to Festival Park. Our Department of Public Works has just installed a new electric line which will power all new lights on the trees surrounding the park. Also, we are well into the construction of our 911 Memorial which is located next to the pavilion. This has been a great effort made by our Heritage Trust Committee, local contractor Chuck Glassman and our Department of Public Works. We are far from finished, but the memorial is starting to take form.

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Christmas Street Celebration "Christmas Dreams"

Scheduled Events • Saturday, December 7th

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA: 7:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M. Grace United Methodist Church, West Bel Air Avenue. Tickets may be purchased at the door! Cost: Adults \$6.00, Ages 6-12 \$3.00, Ages 0-5 Free!

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR: 9:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M. Aberdeen Fire Hall, N. Rogers Street. Lunch Available

GERMAN CHRISTMAS MARKET: 2:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.

ABERDEEN ROOM MUSEUM: 10:30 A.M. – 2:30 P.M.
18 Howard Street Open for Tours

NATIVITY SCENE DISPLAY: 1:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M.
Grace United Methodist Church

BEL AIR AVENUE STREET FAIR & ENTERTAINMENT
Begins at 2 P.M. at Grace United Methodist Church

CHRISTMAS STREET PARADE - Begins promptly at 3 P.M.
Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus will arrive in their sleigh

TREE LIGHTING & VISIT SANTA: Immediately following parade at Festival Park Balloons for children!

PARTICIPATION INFORMATION

Guidelines for Parade and Entry Information: Carolyn Curry 410-272-5242

Window Decorating Contest: Eve Jacobs 410-939-9082

Street Fair Permits: Jean Royster 410-272-6238 (Permits required for all vendors)

Christmas Craft Fair: Judy Hinch 410-272-7585

TRAFFIC INFORMATION

Saturday, December 7th 1:00 P.M. – 5 P.M. No parking & no traffic on West Bel Air Avenue from Law Street to U.S. Route 40
Parade Route: Start on South Law Street; right on to West Bel Air Avenue; left on Howard Street; disband after passing the Festival Park (Plater, Market & Warren Streets may be used for additional line-up space.).

CHRISTMAS STREET COMMITTEE CONTACTS

Caroline Curry: 410-272-5242 • Betty Day: 410-272-4981
Ruth Frank: 410-272-7354

I thank all of our citizens, committee members and civic organizations who put so much into Aberdeen to make our City a community.

I wish all of you a very happy and safe Holiday Season.



Michael E. Bennett, Mayor

Holiday Decorating Safety

As the holiday season approaches, the City of Aberdeen is urging citizens to make safety a factor in holiday decorating. Here are 7 tips for keeping your holiday home fire and injury free:

1. When setting up your tree at home, place it away from heat sources such as fireplaces, vents, and radiators.
2. In homes with small children, take special care to avoid sharp, weighted or breakable decorations.
3. Check each set of lights, new or old, for broken or cracked sockets, frayed bare wires, or loose connections. Throw away damaged sets.
4. If you are using an extension cord, make sure it is rated for the intended use.
5. When using lights outside, make sure lights have been certified for outdoor usage. There should be a note on the label.
6. Keep burning candles within sight. Make sure you extinguish all candles before leaving the house or going to bed.
7. Keep lighted candles away from items that can catch fire and burn easily such as trees, other evergreens, decorations, curtains, and furniture.
8. While we understand that most of these tips are already practiced, please keep them in mind. The holidays are a busy time of year, so please make sure to take time to care of your decorations.

Reduce Rummaging Rodents



- Reduce harborage of rodents by eliminating weeds, refuse piles, overgrown vegetation, and rubbish piles.
- Place garbage and trash in garbage containers with tight fitting lids.
- Eliminate as much of the rodent's water source as possible. Locate and eliminate all possible rat food sources in your yard. It is the food that attracts and supports rats in an area.
- Cracks and openings in building foundations must be sealed.
- Doors, windows, and screens must be tight-fitting.
- Place rodent bait in safe, secluded areas where rodents frequent, and put out more than you think is necessary.
- Manufacturer's directions should be followed for all rat poisons. NEVER leave the poison accessible to children or pets.

Aberdeen Historical Trust

The Aberdeen Heritage Trust currently has two books published and for sale. The first one is:

Aberdeen: A Step in Time Cookbook available at City Hall for \$10.

The coffee table book, *Aberdeen: A Step in Time* is available for \$30. This is a 217 page collection of memorable events in Aberdeen.

The Aberdeen Diamond Jubilee Booklet is published in its entirety for those who did not get a copy in 1975. Several historic homes are featured along with testimonials; and historic activities and recognition of events in Aberdeen. This is a 1st edition printing with a very limited quantity. Public response will dictate a possible 2nd edition. You may call Nancy Backus at 410-272-5345 to reserve your copy. These make wonderful Christmas and holiday gifts. Checks may be made to Aberdeen Heritage Trust.

A book signing event of *Aberdeen: A Step in Time* will be available at the German Christmas Market held in Festival Park on Saturday, December 7, 2013 in conjunction with Christmas Street.

If you have an interest in being considered for membership in the Aberdeen Heritage Trust, please call Nancy Backus at the above number.

Street Project to Begin

The Mayor and Council have approved a bid to begin a large repaving project in Aberdeen. The City will spend over \$2.5 million to begin overlaying those streets in town that have fallen into disrepair. There is not enough money to overlay every street, but the "worst will go first". Some streets will be paved before the asphalt plants close for the winter, but the bulk of the work will be done in the spring.



Aberdeen Police Department



Third Annual Christmas on Patrol

Mr. & Mrs. Santa Clause will be traveling through the City of Aberdeen with a police escort on December 21, 2013, 10 am – 5pm. Kids look for them as they go through town and your neighborhood on this date.



Holiday Toy and Food Drive Donations Needed!

Dates: 11/1/2013 through 12/15/2013.

Goal: We are looking to collect non-perishable food items and new toy donations to benefit Grove Presbyterian Church Deacons Cupboard and the USMC Toys for Tots Harford County Detachment.

Collection Site: Aberdeen Police Dept., 60 N. Parke St. Aberdeen, Maryland 21001 Or Any Uniformed Aberdeen Police Officer.

Drive Coordinators and Questions: Ofc. Arnold Houghton #113 Unit 8 – 4 Shift, Phone (410) 272-2121 ext. 154 Email: ahoughton@aberddeen-md.org

Or Jennifer Liberto Executive Assistant 8 -4 Shift Phone (410) 272-2121 ext. 102 • Email jliberto@aberddeen-md.org

Remember: You have the ability to help us make this holiday season a little better for those less fortunate in Aberdeen. Bring in your new toys, canned goods and non-perishable food items today!

Holiday Shopping Tips

Shopping during the holiday season can present unique danger. Taking a few prevention measures can help keep your holiday season joyous. The holiday season is a time when busy people can become careless and vulnerable to theft and other holiday crime. The following tips from the Aberdeen Police Department can help you be more careful, prepared and aware during the holiday season:

- Shop during daylight hours whenever possible. If you must shop at night, go with a friend or family member.
- Dress casually and comfortably.
- Avoid wearing expensive jewelry.
- Do not carry a purse or wallet, if possible.
- Always carry your driver's license or identification along with necessary cash, checks and/or a credit card you expect to use.
- Even though you are rushed and thinking about a thousand things, stay alert to your surroundings.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash.
- Pay for purchases with a check or credit card when possible.
- Keep cash in your front pocket.
- Notify the credit card issuer immediately if your credit card is lost, stolen or misused.
- Keep a record of all of your credit card numbers in a safe place at home.
- Be extra careful if you do carry a wallet or purse. They are the prime targets of criminals in crowded shopping areas, bus stops, and on buses.
- Avoid overloading yourself with packages. It is important to have clear visibility and freedom of motion to avoid mishaps.
- Beware of strangers approaching you for any reason. At this time of year, con-artists may try various methods of distracting you with the intention of taking your money or belongings.

Fats, Oils, and Grease

Fats, Oils, and Grease, or "FOG" is used in or is a byproduct of food processing and preparation. Examples are cooking oil, butter, lard, shortening, margarine, gravy, sauces, meats, sour cream, and mayonnaise.

FOG discharged into sewer lines can build up and result in clogs, which can then back up in businesses, homes, streets, or even our natural water systems. There are a few steps that you can take, to ensure FOG's stay out of your system:

1. Never pour grease down the sink drains or into toilets
2. Scrape grease from trays, plates, pots, and pans.
3. Do not pour grease down garbage disposal
4. Take grease from the pan, to the can. Let grease cool and solidify after cooking. Use an empty can (coffee can, soup can, etc.) for storing grease. Cover the can, store it until full, and dispose of into the trash can.

Veteran's Day Celebration

Veterans Day is a special day set aside to honor all of the men and women who have chosen to serve their nation with military service. This year, Veterans Day falls on Monday, November 11th. We wish to send out a heartfelt "Thank You" to those who have served our nation in either war time or peace.



On Veterans Day, the American Legion Bernard L. Tobin Post 128 will be honoring all veterans at a special "Veterans Day" ceremony on Monday, November 11, 2013.

We cordially invite you to join us in this special ceremony which will be held at Veterans Memorial Park at 11:00 a.m. with luncheon following.

City of Aberdeen
60 North Parke Street
Aberdeen, Maryland 21001
(410) 272-1600

November/December 2013 Edition of Opportuned-In Enclosed

Snow Plow Procedures

Snow removal can be complicated, but if everyone works together, we can have the streets plowed quickly and efficiently. We open all main arteries first, and then come back to the secondary and tertiary roadways.

When snow first starts to fall, the City of Aberdeen Department of Public Works and Police Department are constantly assessing road conditions to ensure safety of citizens. The City will start to plow based on the forecast and the localized conditions. If the weather is calling for freezing rain, we will let the snow cover the road to counter the impacts of the freezing rain.

It is ideal for citizens to park in their driveways as that allows the City to clear streets curb to curb. If your property does not have a driveway, we ask that you park on the odd side

of the street. This will allow DPW to push snow and clear the largest travel lane possible for citizens. Unfortunately, while we are working hard to keep roads clear, snow plows do move some snow into driveways. We ask that you throw snow from driveways or sidewalks into your yard and not back into roadways. Throwing snow into the roadways can cause vehicles to lose control and cause damage to that vehicle or surrounding property.

We request that streets be cleared of obstacles, so that we may ensure efficient plowing. These objects include but are not limited to cars, basketball nets, and children's toys.

The City asks its citizens to be patient during snow and freezing rain. We assure you City employees are working hard to keep our streets clear and safe.